



Aruba's Archeological Museum offers the public a last chance to view some history

The curators and archeologist of the Aruba Archeological Museum are preparing their vast collection of artifacts for their new home on the Schelpstraat, at the National Museum of Aruba, which will open in 2008. This will take many months of sorting and cataloguing, and during that time the exhibition section of the temporary quarters in the Instituto di Cultura will be closed. Museum officials are offering the public one last chance to visit the exhibition rooms and enjoy the small part of the collection that is on display. The official closing of portion of the Archeological Museum will take place this Sunday, April 30 from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M in the Plaza Hubert "Lio" Booi, which is the courtyard of the Instituto di Cultura located next to the San Francisco Church in Oranjestad.

Aruba's Archeological Museum has many regular visitors that enjoy their classes and educational programs, and museum officials assert that these will not stop. A number of activities and individual expositions are planned until the opening of the new museum, for both children and adults. Teachers of the fourth and fifth grades are particularly encouraged to attend Sunday's activity, as it will feature an introduction and lesson plan for special program for those grades. It is the intention of the museum to see that the teachers implement a program within their curriculum for their students that will supplant the field trips to the museum that would normally take place during the school year.

Two students of the I.P.A., Aruba's teaching training school have devised a program for the teachers in the grammar school, aimed particularly at the fourth and fifth graders. Jane Maduro and Charlotte Richardson, under the guidance of Kees de Jong conducted a study amongst the grammar schools. Their findings have resulted in a lesson plan that will assist educators in keeping their students actively involved in their island's history. The two I.P.A. students will be available on Sunday to introduce and explain this program to teachers and interested parents.

Aruba's new national museum will be an impressive complex of renovated historic buildings and newly constructed areas that will house a vast collection. The small portion of the artifacts that archeologists have uncovered from the several digs on Aruba and are on display now give an interesting insight into its prehistoric native life and culture. They are worth one last look before they move to their new home, and Sunday will offer a the opportunity for the public to enjoy the museum aside from the activities that are planned over the next to years. Curators of the Archeological Museum also invite the public to provide input on Sunday as to what they would like to see in their new museum. They are conscious that the Aruba Historical Museum is for not only island visitors, but it is the for and of the people of Aruba, and what they would like to see in the way of the manner their story is told is of import to the curators and historians. Sunday is the day for all to share their ideas as to what will make a better museum for Arubans, their children, and visitors to the island.